

IV.—*Translation of a Servitude-Bond granted by a Cultivator over his Family, and of a Deed of Sale of two slaves. By D. LISTON, Esq. Gorakhpur.*

Some months ago I was requested by Captain LAWRENCE, under whose charge the survey of the Eastern Division of the district is placed, to furnish answers to statistical inquiries regarding *Sidowa Jobena*, a purguna of *Gorakhpur*, bounding on *Sarun*. I in turn thought of applying for aid in the compilation of the replies to a friend who has been settled as an indigo planter* for several years in *Sidowa*, and who proved to be possessed of a competent acquaintance with the habits and usages of the natives in his neighbourhood.

One of the queries put was, "How do zemindars pay people who water and cultivate lands for them?" The reply was to this effect: "They employ bond servants who are paid at half a cooly's rate, and are at the same time liable to fine in case of absenting themselves from their superior's work." Further inquiry procured me the accompanying bonds or deeds, and as they appear curious and valuable from throwing light on the condition of the agricultural population of this portion of India, I have translated them and now forward them to your address. If you regard them in the same light as I have done perhaps you may think it worth while to publish them in the journal; if you do not think them of sufficient importance for this purpose, pray dispose of them as you may think proper.

The deeds you will observe are blank, but still such as are daily executed and in full force; they were written out by a common village Putwari, and are in the rustic dialect or *Patois* of the section of the province where he resides. The spelling you will also see is not ordered according to any very uniform system.

SERVITUDE-BOND.

Translation.

DEED.—ABHEEMAN KOOROOMEE and his children's plough bond for fifty-one rupees written, signed rupees fifty-one, 51.

[Place for the Master's name†.]

WRITING.—ABHEEMAN KOOROOMEE, inhabitant of *Futapoor*, perguna *Sidowa Jobena Elaka Sooba Oudes zillah Gorakhpur*, having received a loan of fifty-one (51) rupees from ‡ (the above mentioned individual), I have granted a bond agreeing to pay interest for the said rupees at eight anas

* Mr. J. FINCH of *Bubnowli*.

† Mr. FINCH's name is set down in the original which it is hardly necessary to repeat is fictitious.

‡ Blank in original.

per month; for these same rupees I of my own will and accord execute (this) deed of *Hurwuheebundhee* (to have force) over my whole family, for the driving of a plough and for remaining always at hand to execute every kind of labour that may occur. If I remain absent a day from my plough or work then shall I be held responsible to the extent of a rutee weight of gold for each day's absence. If I go any where in the manner of flight then let my whole family be seized. If any other person give (me) a greater sum, he must pay at once principal and interest of this loan. That man may then take my family. If he do not give the money then may my family be seized without dispute; any other interfering will be in vain indeed. This is written that the first engagement may remain in force.

Written 29th Falgoon, year 1244 forty-four at *Emelia*.

DEED of SALE of two SLAVES.

Explanation and Translation.

DHODHO MAHTO *Kumkur* of his own will and accord sells AJUNSI'A and *Rupia*, having executed and delivered a "deed of sale of slaves" signed, or a *mofurkutee loonkutee*.

[I do not find the five or six first lines very intelligible but what follows presents no great difficulty].

The deed commences with the invocation, usual in Sanskrit documents, of *Sosti Sri*; the two first lines are taken up nearly with the enumeration of the titles of VIKRAMA'JIT and of SALIVA'HUN's power. In the fourth line the 43rd year of some king is indicated. ALUMGIR is then mentioned and the 32nd year of Nawab MIRZA' AMANI BEG spoken of. Then follows the year of the rule of the Honorable English Company; viz. the 33rd Mr. CURRIE being administrator, (local). The locality *Gorakhpur*, south of which runs the *Ganges* and to the north the *Gunduk*. The country *Bharuthkum*, sirkar *Gorakhpur*, sooba *Aoadh*, *Akternuggur*, perguna *Sedooa Jobena*, talooka *Bansgaon*, tuppah *Thadheebaree*. The 25th year (of the rule) of Babu ESRÍ KU'MAR SAH (talookdar), the 22nd year (since the establishment) of the English perguna. Sekh JUMALU'DIN being foudj-dar and tehsildar at the tehsildaree of *Peronna*.

In the village of *Buderuha* a sale of slaves was effected. Purchaser UDHO SINGH; amount 43 *Furakabad* rupees. Seller by name DHODHO MAHTO *Kumkur**, of his own will and accord he sells BULBHADER's wife† and son, two adults. The woman's name AJUNSI'A, the lad's name RUPIA, (this) slavery-bond being executed and delivered. The woman's age 22‡, complexion fairish. RUPIA's age 28, complexion dark, eyes dark. Of these people DHODHO MAHTO *Kumkur* has completed the sale, wherever they go, thence they may be brought back, as slaves they are sold to perform every

* The *Kumkurs* are kuhars or bearers.

† A slave-holder may sell a whole family, or what part of it may suit is convenience.

‡ In the original the word is thirty, the ciphers twenty-two as here.

kind of work; wherever they may flee thence they may be seized and brought back without objection or complaint or murmur, without obstacle may they be brought from under the king's or prince's throne; whoever receives these servants, Hindu or Musalmán he may (legally) be adjured—the Hindu by the sacred cow;—the Musalmán by HUSEN, by the Sekh, Seyd, Mogul, Pytan, Sumbut year 1894, month Jet, dark half 13th day, Sunday, year 1244, place *Buderuha*, two ghurees of the day being spent, this was written and signed.

[We have not thought it necessary to insert a lithograph of the Deeds themselves which are in the ordinary *Kayasthí* or *Kaití* form of *Nágari*.—*Ed.*]

V.—*Note on the Malay Woodpecker.* By Dr. WILLIAM BLAND, Surgeon of H. M. S. *Wolf*.

In reference to Mr. HODGSON's description of three new species of Woodpecker, in your Journal of February last, and agreeing in his opinion most heartily, that *America* cannot shew specimens of woodpeckers superior, nor even equal to those which are produced in India, allow me to send you for his information and others interested in the ornithology of this country, the description and measurement of a woodpecker, shot at the extreme point of the Malay peninsula, in March last. A specimen, to which even the royal Nipalese bird must yield the palm,—and a beautiful and noble bird it is,—in size, strength, and beauty, was preserved and sent to *Scotland*; but the following description is from my note book.

Body, not including bill nor tail, nine inches long, tail eight inches; bill, very strong and hard; ridges, high and sharp, forming at the tip a complete wedge; breadth at the base 9-10ths of an inch; height 6-10ths, being 1-3rd more in breadth than depth.

Color, back, breast, neck, wings, upper and under coverts of the tail, and tail itself, glossy black; belly and under wing coverts yellow; head crowned with a scarlet erectile crest, and a patch of red feathers behind the under mandible, with a few white speckles on the throat; tail moderately wedged, consisting of ten strong feathers, worn at the tips, and covered with the juices from trees on which the bird feeds; a bare space round the eye; iris bright yellow; tongue four inches long; feet large, strong, and zygodactile, with considerable mobility of the outer toe; spread of wings two feet three inches; weight twelve ounces. His loud tapping on a tree heard at a considerable distance, led to his discovery, and I had named him "*Picus Maximus Malayensis*."